

San Jose Library and Reading Protection Measure (Library Parcel Tax)

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE S

This is NOT a referendum on libraries. We all want our libraries to be adequately funded and well-run. That's why we ALREADY pay taxes.
Why aren't library users being asked to pay their fair share?

Please consider the following points:

Unjust Priorities: The city could cover the library costs that would be paid by this new tax, but they choose instead to spend tens of millions of dollars on new furniture for the new city hall. Why not simply move the current furniture or buy used furniture?

Fines for overdue books go to city general fund.

\$807,458.65 was collected in fines for 01/2002.

\$841,167.83 was collected in fines for 02/2003.

\$974,023.80 was collected in fines for 03/2004.

Why isn't this money staying with the libraries?

Continuing Library tax: In November, 2000, voters approved the upgrade and expansion of the library facilities with passage of Measure 0, the Library Bond measure. Measure 0 provides \$212 million over ten years. The City Council voted at their August, 2004, meeting to increase the tax levy from \$25.80 for FY 2003-04 to \$49.40 for FY 2004-05, for a single-family home with a net assessed value of \$200,000. This is to pay for these and for other bonds.

Unfair tax: This proposed ten-year Parcel Tax makes no distinction regarding ability to pay.

Parcel taxes are regressive, especially for homeowners whose assessed value is protected by Proposition 13. A homeowner living in a modest home can pay the same parcel tax amount as someone who lives in an expensive mansion.

Some areas in San Jose will have four or more new local taxes on this ballot. If all of these pass our annual property taxes could increase by hundreds of dollars.

Vote "NO" on Measure S

Visit www.VoteNoOnS.us for more information.

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